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**MORPETH BOROUGH COUNCIL**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**for the Year**

**1965**



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of myself and the Senior Public Health Inspector for the year 1965.

The total number of births fell by 17 and the number of deaths increased by 15 as compared with 1964. This resulted in a decline in the standard birth-rate from 17.57 per 1,000 in 1964 to 15.97 in 1965, while the standard death-rate rose, fractionally, from 9.69 to 9.8 per 1,000 but was still lower than the national average death-rate, which, in 1965 was 11.5 per 1,000 of the population of England and Wales.

The statistics are on the whole satisfactory, as the Infantile Mortality Rate at 17.78 per 1,000 live births was lower than in the previous year and lower than the national average, for the second successive year there was no death attributed to any form of tuberculosis, the death-rate from malignant neoplasms was lower than in the previous year and lower than in the country as a whole and the death-rate from cancer of the lung was less than half the corresponding national rate. In this connection it must be remembered, however, that the total number involved is small and rates can vary greatly from year to year.

The appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector who commenced duty on 1st February brought very welcome and much-needed relief and assistance to Mr. Simpson and enabled work to proceed more rapidly in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and in many other ways.

Finally, I must thank all departments of the Council for their co-operation given readily, whenever required and I should like to express my appreciation of the consideration shown to me by members of the Council.

I am,  
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
Your obedient Servant,  
C.B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Borough of Morpeth.



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector (Meat)	J.G. SIMPSON, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector (Meat) Appointed 1st February, 1965	P. YEATS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	36, Bridge Street, Morpeth
Telephone	Morpeth 2236





SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The estimated population at mid-1965 was 13,950 which is a further increase of 320 over that for the previous year.

The area of the Borough was increased in 1965 by five acres transferred from Morpeth Rural District to facilitate the development of a new industrial estate near the station and main railway line. This estate now consists of 29 acres and several inquiries from business undertakings were received during the year. Six firms have arranged to lease sites but these are mainly small and do not constitute an influx of new industry as most have already premises in the Borough. It is to be hoped that it may yet be possible to attract other and larger industries to the town.

Morpeth continues to have many visitors during the summer months and the volume of through traffic continues to grow to such an extent that, at times, it seems as though all traffic will come to a complete stand-still, unable to move.

Area in Acres .....	2,218
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1965 ...	13,950
One Penny Rate Produces .....	£1,757. 0. 9d.
Rateable Value .....	£438,200
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1965) .....	4,099
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority .....	1,496

2.  
VITAL STATISTICS.

(The figures in brackets are the figures for England and Wales)

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	96	122	218
Illegitimate	4	3	7
	<u>100</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>225</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ..... 16.13  
 Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 0.99) ..... 15.97 (18.1)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ..... 13.16 (15.7)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
180	76	104

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ..... 12.9  
 Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.76) ..... 9.8 (11.5)  
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes ( Heading 30 of the Registrar-  
 General's Short List ) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..... Nil  
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	2

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births ..... 17.78 (19.0)  
 Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live  
 births ..... 18.35  
 Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate  
 live births ..... Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
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Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	1	2
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Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks of age per  
 1,000 live births) ..... 13.33 (13.0)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
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Deaths of infants under 1 week	1	2
--------------------------------	---	---

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per  
 1,000 live births) ..... 13.33

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week  
 per 1,000 total live and still births) ..... 26.32



The Registrar-General supplies the following :

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1965.

							<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, (other forms)	..	...	...	...	-	-	-
3..	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	..	...	...	...	4	1	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.	...	...	...	2	1	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	...	...	...	7	4	1
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	...	...	...	-	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	...	...	...	3	8	17
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...	...	19	3	27
19..	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	-	5	5
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	7	1	15
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	2	1
22.	Influenza	..	...	...	...	1	6	7
23.	Pneumonia	..	...	...	...	6	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	..	...	...	...	7	-	-
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	.	...	...	...	1	-	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	.	...	...	...	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	.	...	...	...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	.	...	...	...	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.	...	...	...	3	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	-	1	9
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	-	6	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	6	1	4
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	-	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	4	-	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	-	-	1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	-	-	1
Total							76	104

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1965

Cause	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	83	46.11
Malignant Neoplasms	22	12.22
Pneumonia	21	11.67
Total	126	70.00

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Broncho-pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Toxaemia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
Infantile deaths under 1 year	7	2	5	6	4	6	5	4	6	4
Mortality per 1,000 live births	34.84	10.31	22.03	27.03	18.43	25.33	18.94	12.66	24.79	17.78

5.  
SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle General Hospital undertakes the full range of bacteriological and virological examinations free of charge to local authorities and general practitioners.

Facilities for bacteriological examination are also provided, to a limited extent, at the Pathological Department of Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
General Practitioner	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	6	4
Medical Officer of Health	" " " "	28	148
Medical Officer of Health	Food for pathogenic organisms	1	-
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for Tuberculosis	1	-
6 Sensitivity tests were carried out			

Ambulance Service.

Morpeth Borough and parts of Morpeth Rural District are served by eight drivers and four ambulances stationed in the Borough. All vehicles are fitted with radio receivers and transmitters and when necessary are directed by Radio Control at Wideopen Ambulance Station.

Nursing in the Home.

Domiciliary nursing and midwifery services are provided by the Local Health Authority.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These, too, are the responsibility of the County Council and Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Immunisation and Dental clinics and Relaxation Classes are held in the Health Centre in Gas House Lane. The Health Visitors also carry out hearing tests on young children and, when visiting infants test for the presence of Phenylketonuria.

Health education is also an important part of the work of the Health Visitors.

Meals-on-Wheels.

This service continued to be operated by the members of the Women's Voluntary Services but, unfortunately, was not used as extensively as it might have been. There was also a decline in the numbers attending the twice-weekly luncheon. A good diet is of great importance to old people, enabling them to maintain their health and strength, and it is regrettable that not all who require this service make use of it.



Chiropody Treatment.

This service is organised through voluntary agencies, subsidised by the County Council and is continuing to grow and to be much appreciated by the old people.

Voluntary Services.

The Homes for Old and Handicapped and Blind People and the hospitals in or just outside the Borough provide scope for a great deal of voluntary work on behalf of the less fortunate members of the community and much valuable work is done but much more could be done if more volunteers were available.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWater.

The water supply to the Borough is provided by Tynemouth Corporation and throughout the year was found sufficient to meet all domestic needs. At the close of the year the number of houses known to have only an external supply from a standpipe was five, three of which were in actioned slum clearance areas and the remaining two will be dealt with under appropriate enactments.

Mention may be made of the fact that Tynemouth Water Company proposes to construct a service reservoir at Whalton Road near Tranwell for the primary purpose of supplying water to the Industrial Site at Coopies Lane and also for other possible future developments.

During the year eight samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination.

All were given satisfactory reports by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The following table shows the samples taken and results of examination.

Ref. No.	Location of Sampling	Collected	To Lab.	Result Probable No. of Coliform bacilli per 100 ml.	Code
1.	Bridge Street	9.3.65.	9.3.65	0	S
2.	Newgate Street	"	"	0	S
3.	Low Stanners	"	"	0	S
4.	Public Abattoir	"	"	0	S
5.	Pottery Bank	21.3.65.	21.3.65	0	S
6.	Bullers Green	"	"	0	S
7.	Newmarket	"	"	0	S
8.	Carlisle Park	"	"	0	S

S. indicates 'Satisfactory'.

Nuisances.

During the year 151 complaints of various nuisances were received by the Public Health Inspector, and all received attention.

As in previous years, the method of dealing with nuisances was first by informal action which, it is pleasing to report, was sufficient and it was not necessary to resort to formal statutory action.

The number of inspections made in connection with complaints was 199 and the number of re-inspections was 90, making a total of 289.

Defects and other matters remedied were as follows:-



Ceilings repaired	3
Coal stores rebuilt	1
Drains cleared	2
Drains repaired	1
Dampness remedied	5
Downspouts renewed	2
Doors repaired	4
Door frames renewed	2
External walls repaired	2
External walls repointed	4
Eavesgutters cleansed	3
Eavesgutters repaired	3
Food stores ventilated	1
Houses cleansed	1
Inspection chambers repaired	5
Offensive accumulations removed	5
Roofs repaired	6
Refuse bins provided	3
Sink waste pipes repaired	1
Ventilation of rooms improved	4
Wallplaster repaired	9
Water closets repaired	6
Wash basins secured	1
Windows repaired	2
Wooden floors repaired	1

Other visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts 1936 & 1961

	<u>Number</u>
Building sites	42
Communal yards, courts and passages	11
Disinfestations	40
Drainage works inspected and tested	112
Infectious disease	102
Public Sanitary Conveniences	7
Refuse disposal grounds	5
Rivers, streams and ditches	10
Sewage disposal plants	16
Schools	1
Shops	5
Workplaces	1
Total:-	<u>352</u>

Clean Air Act, 1956.

During the year, one complaint was received of the emission of fumes from a factory chimney. This was investigated and the owners of the furnace were notified and advised.

It was found that the furnace had been used to maximum capacity and perhaps overloaded for a brief time thus giving rise to the nuisance. Assurances were given by the factory owners that care would be taken in the future to avoid overloading.

Air pollution in the Borough from domestic fires though sometimes evident, has not reached the proportions of a 'Black Area' and for that reason, smoke control orders have not thus far been deemed necessary.

One of the problems facing mining communities is that of the great reliance placed upon concessionary coal for domestic cooking and water heating purposes and a further consideration not entirely confined to mining communities, is an opinion that the traditional coal fire is the more comfortable form of heating for the home.

These factors along with the increasing cost of smokeless fuels is, one fears, tending to dampen the enthusiasm towards implementing cleaner air campaigns, however virtuous and desirable they may be.

The time is looked forward to when electrical energy from atomic sources, and gas from natural sources will be cheap enough, for all to use, without having to count the cost.

#### Verminous Premises.

During the year 37 complaints were received concerning insect pests. These were dealt with by using appropriate insecticides and other means. On the domestic scene, cockroaches (*Blatta orientalis*) were the main trouble, though the infestations were not heavy.

Invasions of wasps during the summer months presented a problem also and the health department pests officer answered many calls to deal with these.

A new-comer in the domestic infestations so far as Morpeth is concerned, was the Clover-mite which gave some trouble in newly constructed houses on a new estate. Appropriate action was taken as advised by the Ministry of Agriculture (Pests Division).

The following table shows the species of insect encountered during the year.

Species	No. of Complaints
Bees	1
Cockroaches	15
Clover-mites	1 (several houses)
Flies	2
Fleas	1
Lice	1
Silverfish	1
Wasps	16

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUALREPORTYear ending 31st December, 1965.

	No. of Inspections during the year.	No. of defects or contraventions of byelaws.	No. of informal notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	No. of statutory notices served	Defects remedied by statutory action.	Legal Proceedings.
<u>Housing.</u>							
Structural defects	408	39	23	39	-	-	ance)
Defective food store	4	4	1	1	(3	Slum clear-	
Dampness	5	5	1	1	(4	- do -	)
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Water Supply.</u>							
Insufficient	5	3	-	(Slum Clearance)			
Unsatisfactory	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>							
Insufficient	6	6	5	5	(1	Slum Clear-	ance)
Unsatisfactory	5	3	3	3	-	-	-
<u>Drainage</u>							
Insufficient	24	16	14	14	(2	Slum clear	ance)
Defective	6	6	6	6	-	-	-
<u>General</u>							
Shops	103	1	1	1	(one outstanding		
Travelling shops and vans	17	8	8	7	at end of year)		
Market stalls	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food premises	112	4	4	4	-	-	-
Abattoir	749	-	-	-	-	-	-
Milk dealers premises	5	1	1	1	-	-	-
Ice cream premises	20	1	1	1	-	-	-
Hotels, restaurants, canteens	22	2	2	1	(one closed down)		
Offensive accumulations	5	5	5	5	-	-	-
Defective refuse containers	2	2	2	2	-	-	-
Smoke nuisances	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Licenced Premises	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1558	107	78	92	-	-	-



FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

There were 50 factory premises on the Borough register at the end of the year of which 47 were those where mechanical power was used and 3 where mechanical power was not used. In addition there were 2 outworkers' premises on the register, and 4 others - building sites - where Section 7 of the Act is enforced by the local authority.

The following table gives some statistical information of action under the Acts.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	6	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	47	26	2	-
3. Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. Out-workers' Premises)	4	7	2	-
Total	54	39	4	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec- utions were in- stituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	2	1	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	5	1	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Out-work)	1	1	-	-	-
Total	8	3	-	-	-

Five contraventions were outstanding at the end of year and will be persued in 1966.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

As in previous years, the destruction and control of rodent pests was given maximum attention. During 1965, 88 complaints were received of rats and mice and all were thoroughly dealt with. The methods employed to deal with them were poison baiting, the use of lethal fumigants and concentrated trapping as approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Rodent Control Division). Many surveys were carried out to include all kinds of premises, farm lands, the banks of the river Wansbeck and tributary streams, hedgerows, sewage plants, refuse tips, slum-clearance sites, dwellings and business premises.

The Council's refuse disposal ground at Quarry Woods was kept under continuous surveillance and treatment with several full-scale treatments applied using the combined baiting and follow-up lethal gas technique with excellent results.

The sewerage system of the Borough was given the twice yearly baiting treatment as required by the Ministry and a detailed account of the year's work was sent to the Ministry.

The following table sets out some details of the work done during the year.

Type of Property	Inspections	Treatments
Agricultural	24	1
Business	508	11
Council	187	12
Dwellings	2158	50
Refuse site	62	Continuous
Rivers and streams	54	3
Sewage plant	6	1
Sewers	-	2

### Destruction of Moles.

Infestations of moles on Council owned lands were dealt with as they arose by a specialist in this work, retained by the Council.

It is understood that several sites were dealt with during 1965 but none reached serious proportions and no specific complaints were received.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951.

At the end of the year there was only one licensed premise on the Borough register.

Inspections were made from time to time to check that the conditions of the license were being observed. No offences were noted or reported.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

The continued growth of the Borough by new housing development coupled with the re-vitalisation and re-development programme of the Council, has produced increasing demands upon the sewage disposal works which are working beyond capacity and the projected extension of the works is still awaited. During the year 7 samples of the effluent were taken by Northumbria River Authority all of which failed to comply with the terms of consent given by that authority under the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1956-1961. This is obviously a matter of some concern and needs urgent attention.



### Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of the town's refuse continues to be done by direct labour. The disposal site at Quarry Woods on the outskirts of the town, is supervised by a tip orderly to ensure that proper precautions are taken as to the mode of tipping and the nuisances and fires are given prompt attention. The tip is, geographically, conveniently situated near the river Wansbeck so that an adequate water supply, with a powered pump, permanently on the site, facilitates prompt action against fire.

The amount of refuse to be collected continues to grow for the same reasons as the increasing sewage flow but with up-to-date equipment and good team work on the part of the staff employed, this important service functions most efficiently and satisfactorily.

### Rivers and Streams.

The river Wansbeck and other streams flowing through the Borough were given some attention during the year to observe any pollution.

On occasions a slight oily film was noticeable on the river surface in places near the town centre and it is thought the source of this was surface water from roadways polluted by oil droplets escaping from motor vehicle engines and subsequently washed into the river during wet weather. This form of pollution though spasmodic and accidental, is regrettable, since it requires very little oil to mar the surface of the water for a considerable distance.

The oil pollution mentioned in my report for 1964 was finally traced and dealt with.

In connection with the old, long standing problem of refuse being deposited in the river, there seems to be much improvement and a greater aware-ness generally, of the pleasure to be derived from a clean and unpolluted river. It is hoped also that the practice of depositing garden refuse on the banks of other parts of the river will cease.

The Churchburn was found on routine inspection to be affected by faecal pollution. The source of this was traced to a defect in a drainage system to the south of the stream. At the end of the year new drainage work to abate this pollution was in progress.

### Camping Sites and other recreational facilities.

There are no camping sites in the Borough. Facilities for other recreational activities are provided in the various parks and open spaces. e.g. at Carlisle Park, Isacar Park, Storey Park, The Stadium at Grange House, High Stanners, Low Stanners and the Common. There is also a Golf Club and a Cricket and Tennis Club in the Borough and during the summer months boating is provided on the river. All these amenities are much used and enjoyed.

### Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the Borough. One Primary School has, however, been provided with this amenity, but its use is restricted to school children.

### Schools.

From time to time visits were made to schools in connection with sanitary conveniences and kitchen facilities. These were found generally satisfactory.

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

At the close of the year 255 premises under this Act were on the Borough register. Of these 112 were visited and 180 contraventions were found, as shown in the following table:

Section	Subject Matter	Number
4.	Cleanliness	10
5.	Overcrowding	2
6.	Temperature	44
7.	Ventilation	7
8.	Lighting	38
9.	Sanitary Conveniences	10
10.	Washing facilities	11
11.	Supply of drinking water	--
12.	Clothing accommodation	12
13.	Sitting facilities	5
14.	Seats (Sedentary workers)	--
15.	Eating facilities	--
16.	Floors, passages and stairs	7
17.	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	1
18.	Protection of young persons -- dangerous machines	--
19.	Training of young persons -- do --	--
23.	Prohibition of heavywork	--
24.	First Aid	33

One non-fatal accident was reported to the Health Department and was fully investigated and the owner of the business concerned was advised.

Many of the contraventions afore-mentioned were either put in order, or were in the process of being so at the end of the year.

The Act, and the various regulations made there-under to date, places a considerable burden of work and responsibility upon the Public Health Inspector's Department at all stages of its administration. This includes the initial registration, inspection and re-inspection, interviews, discussions, examination of plans of business alterations and new premises, explaining the effect of the regulations, giving advice, checking the progress of works required, and keeping up-to-date the many intricate records for office use, and subsequent reports to the Ministry of Labour.

It is hoped that by the method adopted, all premises within the scope of the Act will in due course comply without recourse to legal action.



SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1965Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	16
b) By other bodies or persons	80

Closing and Demolition:

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	8
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	3
3. Houses closed, not demolished	2
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

Repairs.Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing Or P.H. Acts.

5. By informal action	9
6. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
--	-----

Clearance Programme.

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	Nil
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

No. of separate  
houses.

A. Discretionary Grants.

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	8
2. Applications rejected	1
3. Applications approved	7
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£190
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	158 (69 Council houses)

B. Standard Grants.

	<u>During the</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made:	16	71 + 1 L.A.
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	12	54 + 3 L.A.
b) Wash hand basin	13	50 + 3 L.A.
c) Hot water supply	12	53 + 3 L.A.
d) Water closet	16	56 + 2 L.A.
e) Food store	10	38 + 3 L.A.

Slum Clearance.

The main slum clearance programme of the Borough was completed in 1961. Since then, however, a small area comprising four houses was dealt with in 1964, and during 1965 a further area comprising two houses was represented and a Clearance Order made by the Council. In addition one Closing Order and one Demolition Order were made, and one Closing Order was determined on the premises referred to being made fit for human habitation. Eight dwellings in Slum Clearance areas, and three individual unfit houses were demolished during the year.

Three families were rehoused from slum clearance areas and five families rehoused from individual unfit houses, by the Council, the number of persons displaced being ten.

At the close of the year, the number of families awaiting rehousing from individual unfit houses was four.

All families in slum clearance areas had been rehoused by the Council.

Housing Act 1964.

Under this Act, one application was received requesting the Council to exercise its powers for the compulsory improvement of a dwelling house. The application led to the inspection of four other adjoining houses with a view to declaring an improvement area but investigation revealed conditions preventing this action being taken. In the case of the single house, the procedure for improvement was set in motion.

As soon as circumstances permit, a survey will be made of areas of the Borough where improvements are thought to be required and an attempt will be made to persuade landlords to improve voluntarily. Only if this fails, will compulsory powers be invoked.

Rent Act, 1957.

There were no applications received for a certificate of disrepair during the year.

SECTION E.Inspection and Supervision of FoodMilk Supply.

All milk sold in the Borough is designated i.e. Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. Dealers licenses are issued by Northumberland County Council and sampling is carried out by the County Public Health Inspector.

The following table shows the number and results of samples taken for Methylene Blue Reductase Test, Phosphatase Test and Biological Test.

Designation	Test Result					
	Passed			Failed		
T.T.    Past.    Sterilised	M.B.	Phos	Bio	M.B.	Phos	Bio
2	1	-	1	1	-	1
-        7	7	7	-	-	-	-

Ice Cream

At the end of the year there were 48 premises in the Borough registered for the sale of ice cream. Premises and storage equipment were inspected and found generally satisfactory.

Public Abattoir.

Slaughter of animals for butcher's meat continued to be satisfactorily carried out at the Council owned and operated abattoir. Though the facilities are <sup>not</sup> working to full capacity, the throughput figures show a marked improvement over past years. The premises generally were well maintained and good hygiene observed, walls, floors and equipment being thoroughly cleansed after each days work and metal work coming into direct contact with the meat and offal washed down with hot water and an approved bactericide.

The Council employs two full-time and one part-time slaughtermen, also one full-time laining attendant and general labourer.

There were no serious mechanical failures, any minor faults being quickly dealt with by the Council's own mechanic.

A little difficulty was experienced owing to a complaint of sheep offal going "off condition" but it was found this was caused by the offal being left in the cooling hall for a lengthy period after slaughter by one particular customer, to fit in with his business arrangements. After discussion it was agreed that he would remove the sheep offal during warm weather, to prevent future trouble.

Slaughtermen's Licences.

During the year, nine slaughtermen's licences were renewed by the Council. There were no new licences issued. No offences or breach of conditions of licence were reported or observed.

The licences issued, permitted the use of stunning apparatus of the capture bolt gun type but the Council-employed slaughtermen were permitted to use the electro-lethal apparatus installed at the abattoir. Slaughtering by the Mohammedan method is not practiced at the abattoir.



MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and rejected in whole or in part as unfit for human consumption.

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1413	152	48	9665	2108
Number inspected	1413	152	48	9665	2108
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1	18	6
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	431	78	1	1901	692
Percentage of no. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	30.5%	51.9%	4.2%	19.8%	34%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	1	-	-	-	13
Percentage of no. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.07%	-	-	-	0.6%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	6	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.42%	-	-	-	-

The following table shows some comparison throughout figures under private enterprise and public abattoir arrangements.

Period	Private Enterprise					Yearly Totals	
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total		
1st January to 31st December 1963	1327	6457	800	109	8693	1963	8693
1st January to 31st July, 1964	815	2996	371	40	4222	1964 9555	
Period	Public Abattoir						
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total		
1st August to 31st December, 1964	585	4250	487	11	5333		
1st January to 31st December, 1965	1565	9665	2108	48	13386	1965	13386

### Food Premises, Food Hygiene and Educational Activities.

Good progress has been made during the year towards achieving a high standard of hygiene in respect of premises where food is processed, prepared, stored and sold for human consumption. 1965 saw much activity in this field with several new food shops opening on new estates. Other premises in the town centre were converted into public eating places of considerable proportions. This involved many visits to the various premises at all stages of planning, construction and equipping. Numerous consultations were held between the proprietors concerned and the Public Health Inspectors with practical advice and guidance being given to ensure compliance with all laws and regulations involved.

Routine inspections of all kinds of food premises, included Hotels, Restaurants, Snack Bars, Shops, travelling shops and market stalls. Laxity on the part of some travelling shop proprietors was discovered, but after warnings and a follow-up by letters, much improvement was achieved.

The approach to these problems by means of education and persuasion does achieve the desired results while at the same time, maintaining a good reciprocal relationship with those engaged in the food trades.

Talks and practical demonstrations to various organisations continue to be given by the Public Health Inspector as his leisure time permits.

In addition the distribution of Ministry of Health posters and other printed matter helps towards getting the message across to all those engaged in handling food.

### Food Inspection other than Butchers Meat.

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs were inspected, rejected as unfit for human consumption and surrendered for destruction.

Commodity	Weight	
	lb.	ozs
Cooked ham	17.	0.
Cheese	2.	4.
Fish products	87.	0.
Fruit	18.	0.
Milk (tinned)	5.	13.
Preserved meats	18.	0.
Pastry	7.	0.
Vegetables (preserved)	89.	0.
Wine	4000.	0.
	4244lb.	1oz

All of the above foodstuffs were disposed of by suitable methods under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. Condemned meat and offals at the Public Abattoir were collected by a by-products firm for processing into commodities not for human consumption, first having been stained with an approved colouring agent to prevent improper use.

### Food Premises.

At the close of the year there were on the Borough register 21 premises where food was preserved which were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Five of the premises were registered for the first time during 1965.

The number of food premises on the register was 125 made up as follows:

Classification	Number
Boarding houses	2
Butchers	11
Bakehouses	4
Confectioners	18
Cafes	14
Canteens	1
Chemists	4
Cooked meats	3
Fruiterers	8
Fried Fish	3
Fresh Fish	1
Grocers	13
General dealers	12
Hotels and Public Houses	16
Supermarkets	2
School kitchens	9
Off licence premises	4



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Age Unknown	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Dysentery .....	-	-	2	3	11	3	2	5	3	-	-	-	-	29
Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning .....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles .....	-	4	37	41	78	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161
Total .....	2	4	39	44	89	4	2	5	3	-	1	-	-	193

Measles

Cases of Measles were notified in all months of the year from January to September, inclusive but the months with the largest numbers of cases occurred in the months of February, March and April which accounted for 137 cases out of the total of 161.

The total number was not so high as might have been expected in an epidemic year.

Dysentery

The cases of dysentery all occurred during an outbreak which first came to the notice of the Health Department on 15th July but which, on inquiry, was found to have begun about ten days earlier. Between 15th July and 16th September 43 cases were notified and, of these, 29 were confirmed as suffering from Sonne dysentery. Most of the cases were connected in some way with Abbey Fields School and only two of the confirmed cases did not live in the Spelvit Lane, Kirkhill area. A circular letter from the Medical Officer of Health and leaflets giving advice on the subject of dysentery were distributed to all parents having children at the school and to all food shops in the area.

At the time of the outbreak there was an epidemic of dysentery in progress in an adjoining local authority district and it is possible that this was the source of the infection in the Borough.

Four mothers who were themselves infected or had infected children were found to be employed as hospital nurses and were kept off work pending investigation or until free from infection. One father who was a teacher in a hospital school was excluded from school until proved free from infection.

The food handlers who were infected were kept off work and were subsequently compensated by the Council, for loss of earnings. One

food handler who lived outside but worked in the Borough was also excluded from work.

Fortunately the schools closed for the summer holiday before the end of July and this probably helped to limit the spread of infection.

#### Diphtheria.

There has been no death from this disease in the past 19 years and no case in the past 17 years.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

This form of protection for children continues to be accepted by the vast majority of parents. Figures are not now available separately for the Borough as one return is made annually for the whole of the Central Area of the County of which Morpeth Borough forms a part.

During 1965, in the Central Area, 928 children completed a primary course of protection against Diphtheria and, of this number 853 received simultaneous protection against Whooping Cough and Tetanus also.

In addition 2,064 children received re-inforcing inoculations against Diphtheria while 1,034 received re-inforcing inoculations against Whooping Cough and 1,654 against Tetanus.

Another 412 completed a primary course of protection against Tetanus.

#### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Oral vaccine has now completely replaced the previous Salk vaccine which was given by injection. During 1965, in the Central Area, 1,154 children completed the primary course of three doses of the vaccine and 1,028 received re-inforcing doses.

Previously re-inforcing doses were given only at or about the time of school entry but in 1965 it was decided that another dose should be given about one year after the primary course as well as the dose at the age of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  - 5 years.



TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1965

	New Cases					Deaths				
	Resp.		Non-Resp		Tot.	Resp		Non-Resp		Tot.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

For what is probably the first time on record and is certainly the first time in 29 years, no new case of tuberculosis was notified during the year.

There was, again, no death attributed to this disease.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth	Nil
The corresponding rate for England and Wales	0.042 per 1,000
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth	Nil
The Corresponding rate for England and Wales	0.006 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1965

	Male								Female									
	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55- 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Lip	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tongue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Lung	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cervix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Penis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lymphatic and Haematopoietic Tissues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	5	13	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	2	9

The total number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was 22, a reduction of 4 on the total for the previous year and the number of deaths from cancer of the lung also showed a reduction from 7 in 1964 to 3 in 1965.

The death-rate from cancer of the lung and from all forms of cancer were lower than the corresponding rates for England and Wales, as a whole, as can be seen from the figures given below.

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth	0.215 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.553 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth	1.362 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.674 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth	1.577 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.227 per 1,000





